



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Birthplace National Monument
1732 Popes Creek Road
Washington's Birthplace, VA 22443

804 224-1732 telephone
804 224-2142 facsimile

George Washington Birthplace - News Release

Release date: Immediate
Contact(s): Park Ranger Dick Lahey
Phone number: 804 224-1732x235
Email: richard_lahey@nps.gov
Date: October 13, 2010

Harvest Festival Presented by George Washington Birthplace 4-H Heritage Club

The tobacco is hung and the crops are gathered; now the real work begins. On Saturday October 29 George Washington Birthplace will be full of the activities typical of a 1732 plantation getting ready for winter. The event is being hosted by the George Washington Birthplace National Monument 4-H Heritage Club and will be held from 10-5. Costumed demonstrations will include blacksmithing, hearth cooking, spinning and weaving.

The 4-H club was established 2008. The purpose of the club is to learn and share 17th century crafts and ways. To date the club has demonstrated to thousands of visitors mostly at the Birthplace, but also at Booker T. Washington National Monument, the Montross Festival and the Richmond County Fair. "We have about 50 members ages 9-17 and over a dozen leaders," said club founder Park Ranger Dick Lahey. "We have room for more people to join us," he added.

The slogan of 4-H is *Learning by Doing*, and the staff of George Washington Birthplace National Monument feels that a group of enthusiastic **doers** is a great way to



Park Ranger Chris Kennedy harvests tobacco

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reinvigorate of the popular living history that programs that were common to the park 25 years ago. “The types of demonstrations that these skilled and personable young people can do is limited only by their creativity and dedication,” said Superintendent Lucy Lawliss.

For information on how to become a leader for--or a member of--the George Washington Birthplace National Monument 4-H Heritage Club, contact Park Ranger Dick Lahey at (804) 224-1732, extension 235 or richard_lahey@nps.gov. Membership information and applications will be available during the event on October 29. George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located on Route 204, 2 miles off of Route 3, 38 miles east of Fredericksburg, VA and 11 miles west of Montross, VA. As always, no admission is charged for the event or to visit. Additional information about George Washington Birthplace National Monument is available by phone at (804) 224-1732 or on the web at www.nps.gov/gewa.